



**August 2007**

## Message from the Commissioner



Our Office is committed to horse racing in Michigan and we believe in the integrity of the sport. The ORC is continually making improvements to the way we conduct business to reflect this view. For example, we now use the more sophisticated Eliza kits for drug testing. These kits produce results better efficiently and with more accuracy. We have also been working with the MDA laboratory to increase the number of tests run on each sample. We are looking for more substances and are able to detect them with greater effectiveness. Another area to which we have made advances is our case investigation and reporting process. Our new database system will allow us to monitor various patterns of activity within the industry. As well, we have spent a good deal of time, and will continue to do so, reviewing the ORC General Rules, revising our policies and working on changes that will

better the our industry as a whole. It is our goal to raise the standards of Michigan horse racing to be the best we can be, to draw the positive attention we deserve and to maintain the viability of the sport. I believe that together the Office of Racing Commissioner and the horsemen of Michigan can make it happen.

## On-line Forms

To help streamline the license application process, we have now posted all of the forms on our website. You can print them out, fill them out and bring them to one of the ORC offices for processing. Please check on the form if it needs to be signed in front of an ORC clerk. Our website is **[www.michigan.gov/horseracing](http://www.michigan.gov/horseracing)**. Check under the Forms tab or the Licensing tab.

## Freeze Firing

When freeze firing a structure on the leg of a horse it is important to avoid involving major nerve branches in the freezing pattern. Rule 431.1130(n) (o) states, "ordering a horse to be denerved, neurectomized, desensitized or anesthetized by surgery, cryosurgery, freezing, chemical block, or any other means at or above the ankle so as to remove sensation from the lower limb" is a violation. Avoid freezing in the location of nerves to prevent rule violations. Violations will require the horse to not race until feeling has returned to the nerves as determined by the ORC veterinarians.

## EHV Vaccinations

Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) is a common virus that occurs in horse populations all over the world. The virus causes respiratory disease, abortions and neurologic disease. There has been an increase in the neurological cases since 2003. In 2006, there were 11 EHV positives reported in Michigan with five associated deaths. At time of publication, there has only been one case of EHV reported in 2007. Effective November 15, 2006, prior to entering a horse to race with the race secretary at any of the state's pari-mutuel racetracks, all persons are required to provide proof of vaccination from a licensed veterinarian indicating that the horse has been vaccinated against EHV within the past six (6) months. Proof must be provided to an ORC veterinarian. In addition, all horses stabled on the grounds of a licensed racetrack must have proof of vaccination from a licensed veterinarian within the past six (6) months. It is important to note that the ORC's change in policy means that you should not have a break in vaccination. That is, do not wait until December or January to get your horse vaccinated, do it now.

Updated Office of Racing Commissioner Rules can be found on our website **[www.michigan.gov/horseracing](http://www.michigan.gov/horseracing)** under the "About the ORC" Tab.

## Operation Identification

In an effort to keep the incident of theft low at the race tracks, ORC has a program called, "Operation Identification." Our team of investigators have engravers available for you to mark your equipment in the barn. Accompanied with the engraving are documentation of your equipment to protect you in the event something is taken from you. For more information stop by the ORC field office and talk with one of our regulation agents or send an email to Richard Jewel at [jewelr@michigan.gov](mailto:jewelr@michigan.gov).

## Emergency Preparedness

The United Kingdom has once again been struck with foot and mouth disease. Although this disease does not affect horses, they can spread it since they are often stabled or pastured with other animals, especially in Europe. Foot and mouth has not been found in the US since the 1920s. However, this is a good reminder to maintain bio-security precautions on your farm to prevent any outbreak of disease. Here is a summary of the things you can be doing to reduce the risk:

- Limit access to your brood mare and foaling barn(s).
- Have a separate area for horses that are continually moving to and from the farm to races.
- Use new sterile needles and syringes for all meds.
- Use separate halters, lead shanks, and grooming equipment for each horse or, at least, limit their use to one group of horses.
- Disinfect vehicles and equipment after use. A bleach and water mixture works well.
- Keep yourself healthy and wash your hands between horses.

For more information on equine disease and bio-security measures, go to the Michigan Department of Agriculture's site at [www.michigan.gov/mda](http://www.michigan.gov/mda).

## TCO2 Database

As part of our ongoing efforts to increase our integrity, the Office of Racing Commissioner is now keeping a database with all TCO2 values. This database will be managed by the Commissioner veterinarians. This will allow us to track each horse's values every time they are tested and will document any changes that have taken place.

## Changes to NY's Worker Comp

Starting on September 9, 2007, all out-of-state workers in New York will be required to carry a full, statutory New York State workers' compensation insurance policy. This means that no license or permit will be issued to participate unless the individual has submitted proof of New York coverage on a State Insurance Fund form U-26.3 or WCB form C105.2. and the WC/DB-100 Affidavit, request for waiver of workers' compensation insurance because the trainer does not hire any help remains in place. For complete information related to this change go to the New York State Racing and Wagering Board at [www.racing.state.ny.us](http://www.racing.state.ny.us).

## Furosemide Order

Any licensed trainer may request the controlled administration of furosemide/Salix® to any thoroughbred or mixed breed horse which is at least two years old and any standardbred which is at least three years old, that is entered to race at any licensed Michigan racetrack, whether or not the horse is "certified" to have bled previously. For completed details of the order go to [www.michigan.gov/horseracing](http://www.michigan.gov/horseracing).



June is Michigan Horse Racing Month  
Blanket Winner at Hazel Park  
Photo Taken by Nancy Corrion

[www.michigan.gov/horseracing](http://www.michigan.gov/horseracing)